

SBA SEEKS NOMINATIONS FOR 1995 "SMALL BUSINESS PERSON OF THE YEAR"

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) is looking for the successful small business man or woman who will become America's "Small Business Person of the Year" for 1995. The deadline for nominations is November 23. Winners of the state competition compete for the national title.

Each year since 1963, the President has designated a week in May as national Small Business Week in recognition of the small business community's contributions to the American economy. Nearly 21 million strong, small businesses now employ 54 percent of the private work force, produce 50 percent of the private sector output, and create two out of every three new jobs.

Business owners from every state, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and Guam who have been named as their state's "Small Business Person of the Year" travel to Washington for three days of small business relate activities and meetings that typically include high level government officials.

From among these state winners, the national "Small Business Person of the Year" is announced by the President of the United States during a White House ceremony. In addition to receiving national recognition, the winner often becomes a frequent source for print and broadcast journalists on small business issues.

"Small Business Week is a long-standing tradition," said SBA Administrator Erskine Bowles. "The SBA is honored to be the sponsor of this event which honors small businessmen and women who are among the nation's most successful entrepreneurs."

Each state's Small Business Person of the Year must meet criteria which includes staying power, growth in employment, increase in sales/unit volume, innovation, response to adversity, and evidence of contributions to his/her community.

Advocate awards are also presented to persons who have used their professional skills or personal talents to further public understanding and awareness of small business. Candidates must have taken an active role in creating opportunities to promote the interests of small business. Advocate categories include: Women in Business, Minority, Veteran, Accountant, Financial Services, and Media. Special awards are also presented to the Small Business Exporter and Young Entrepreneur of the Year, and the Federal Government Small Business Prime Contractor and Subcontractor of the Year. Large companies that

started as small businesses and became big businesses are also honored with the Entrepreneurial Success Award.

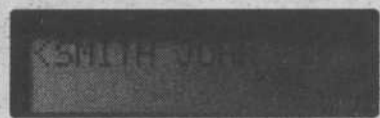
Among America's top small business owners who have received the national distinction in recent years are: a Utah

businesswoman who opened a plant store in 1975 and built it into a thriving million dollar a year enterprise; a Wisconsin bird

food manufacturer with \$70 million in annual sales; an Oklahoma grandmother who started making hairbows for her

granddaughters as a hobby and turned it into a multi-million dollar a year business; and the head of (See SBA Nominations, Pg 13)

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